



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT AND STRATEGIC PLAN

I. OVERVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT

The American people have had a long-term investment in the resources managed by the Department of the Interior. From its establishment in 1849, the Department has managed many and varied programs including Indian affairs, administering land grants, improving historic western emigrant routes, maintaining boundaries, administering pension laws, issuing patents, conducting the census, and conducting research on the geological resources of the land. Following the conservation movement at the beginning of the 20th century, however, the Department focused its attention on the preservation, management, understanding, and use of natural and cultural resources with an increasing sense of the fragile nature of those resources and the interdependence of ecosystems.

Today, the Department's mission is to encourage and provide for the appropriate management, preservation, and operation of the Nation's public lands and natural resources for use and enjoyment both now and in the future; to develop and use resources in an environmentally sound manner and provide an equitable return on these resources to the American taxpayer; to carry out related scientific research and investigations in support of these objectives; and, to carry out trust responsibilities of the U.S. Government with respect to American Indians and Alaskan Natives.

One of the Department's principal goals has been to ensure that the funding the American people provide is used as efficiently and productively as possible. To achieve this goal, the Department has focused on three areas -- streamlining, re-engineering, and customer service. As a result, the Department has been a leader in the Administration's initiative to reinvent Government and implement the

recommendations of the National Performance Review (NPR). The reduction of our workforce responds to the President's Executive Order, the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994, and the Secretary's direction to reinforce employees in the field who are in direct contact with the public. Other driving forces promoting improved efficiency and effectiveness include the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, the Chief Financial Officers (CFO) Act of 1990, the Government Management Reform Act (GMRA) of 1994, and the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994.

The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget is the CFO for the Department. The responsibilities of the CFO include: providing detailed and objective advice on program planning, budget, and policy matters; overseeing compliance with environmental statutes and standards; developing and maintaining internal administrative policy, standards, objectives, and procedures for use throughout the Department; overseeing the administrative appeals process; and, undertaking special analytical and administrative support services for the Office of the Secretary. (See **Appendix A**).